

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030
Notice of Funding Availability (“NOFA”)***May 23, 2022***Summary**

The Department of Economic and Community Development (“DECD”) acts as administrator for the Community Investment Fund 2030 (“CIF”), a five-year program designed to support historically disadvantaged communities across the state with up to \$175 million each fiscal year from 2022 to 2027. This NOFA is issued with respect to the first round of available CIF grants, with two rounds expected to be available each year.

CIF provides funding for a variety of capital improvement and small business support projects as defined by statute and detailed further below (“Eligible Projects”). All Eligible Projects must be submitted to DECD for review pursuant to this NOFA and the attached CIF application materials (“Application”), after which they may be reviewed for recommendation by the CIF Board and the Governor, and then for approval by the State Bond Commission (such projects as finally approved, “Approved Projects”).

As detailed more fully in this NOFA, Approved Projects must:

- Be submitted by an Eligible Applicant (as defined below);
- Promote economic or community development in such municipality; and
- Further consistent and systematic fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities that have been denied such treatment, as further detailed in the statute.

Application Process:

The Application Forms are available on the CIF Website-:

<https://portal.ct.gov/communityinvestmentfund/>

Submit your completed application materials electronically, including all attachments, (electronic format) through the website portal by 11:59 PM on July 25, 2022. Questions regarding the Application should be addressed to communityinvestmentfund@ct.gov. Any clarification or supplemental information will be added to the dedicated Program [Webpage](#).

Application and Approval Timeline:

Notice of Funding Availability issued	Monday May 23, 2022
Deadline to submit applications	Monday July 25, 2022
Administrator conducts eligibility review and transmits Executive Summaries to CIF Board	July 26 – September 2, 2022
CIF Board meets to issue recommendations for applications	September 27, 2022
State Bond Commission meets to issue final approval of CIF Board-recommended and Governor-approved applications	Within two months of CIF Board approval

Grant Size: Individual Eligible Projects must have a proposed minimum funding amount of \$250,000; there is no maximum funding amount. Total funding available for this round of CIF grants pursuant to this NOFA is \$75,000,000.

Source of Funding and Enabling Statutes: Section 112 of Public Act 21-111, as amended, authorizes the State Bond Commission to issue bonds in the amount of \$175 million per year for each fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 through 2027, for the purpose of funding the Community Investment Fund.

Eligible Applicants: [Eligible Applicants](#) include (i) municipalities which are designated in state law as either Public Investment Communities or Alliance Districts; (ii) community development corporations which serve one or more such municipalities; and (iii) not-for-profit organizations which serve one or more of such municipalities.

A list of municipalities currently designated as Public Investments Communities and designated as Alliance Districts can be found online here at <https://portal.ct.gov/communityinvestmentfund/-/media/CommunityInvestmentFund/2022-03-17-CIF-2030-Elligible-Communities.pdf>

Description of Eligible Projects

Eligible Projects must

- (i) promote economic or community development in the municipality where the project is located, and
- (ii) further consistent and systematic fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino and indigenous and Native American persons; Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons and other persons comprising the LGBTQ+ community; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

Eligible Projects must require at least \$250,000 of proposed state funding. There is no limit on the number of proposals which an Eligible Applicant may submit for each round of CIF funding. An Eligible Applicant may re-submit a proposal from a previous round, provided that it provides justification as to why the proposal is more meretricious as compared to the previous occasion on which it was submitted. Multiple eligible applicants may propose joint applications, including multiple municipalities.

There are two categories of Eligible Projects:

1. Capital Improvements
2. Small Business Supports.

I. Examples of eligible **Capital Improvements** include:

- Brownfield remediation*;
- Affordable housing;

- Establishment of or improvements to water and sewer infrastructure to support smaller scale economic development,
- Pedestrian safety, and traffic calming improvements;
- Establishment of or improvements to energy resiliency or clean energy projects and land acquisition and capital projects to construct;
- Rehabilitation or renovation of buildings and structures to facilitate or improve home rehabilitation programs
- Rehabilitation or renovation of public facilities such as libraries and senior centers.

Potential uses of funds include construction costs; acquisition of land (subject to procedures required by state law); and fixtures, furniture, and equipment. Professional services (engineering, architecture, consultants project management etc.) and other “soft costs” may be funded however, the Administrator’s preference is to minimize such costs, in keeping with best economic development practices. However, early-stage or conceptual Capital Improvement projects may be eligible for CIF funding to support community outreach and project pre-development, provided that the applicant presents a robust plan for the use of such funding to result in a shovel-ready proposal.

**Brownfield remediation definition 588-gg (2) “Brownfield” means any abandoned or underutilized site where redevelopment, reuse or expansion has not occurred due to the presence or potential presence of pollution in the buildings, soil or groundwater that requires investigation or remediation before or in conjunction with the redevelopment, reuse or expansion of the property*

II Small Business Support programs may be proposed by an Eligible Applicant for the purpose of providing:

- A revolving loan program, micro loans, or gap financing, to small businesses located within such municipality; or
- Start-up funds to establish a small business in any eligible municipality.

The Statute requires that any proposed loan or financing must utilize an interest rate that does not vary from the prevailing market rate.

An eligible “small business” shall be defined, as in Section 32-7g(a) of the General Statutes, as a business organization which does or shall (1) employ not more than one hundred employees, (2) have operations in Connecticut, and (3) be in good standing with the payment of all state and local taxes and with all state agencies.

CIF funds may support establishment and operation of small business support programs administered by an Eligible Applicant; no CIF funds shall be allocated directly to an individual business.

Criteria for Priority Given to Certain Projects

As required by the Statute, the Board shall give priority to eligible projects for any of the following reasons:

1. The application is proposed by a municipality that (A) has implemented local hiring preferences pursuant to section 7-112 of the General Statutes, or (B) has or will leverage municipal, private, philanthropic or federal funds for such project;
2. The application has a project labor agreement or employs or will employ ex-offenders or individuals with physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities; and
3. The application includes a letter of support for the proposed eligible project from a member or members of the General Assembly in whose district the eligible project is or will be located.

In addition, DECD (acting as CIF administrator) will review all applications and present an Executive Summary to the CIF Board for each eligible application. This Executive Summary will include DECD's analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each application.

- With respect to Capital Improvements (defined hereinafter), the Administrator will consider:
 - Alignment with the state's [Economic Action Plan](#), which includes the following goals: create significant number of permanent, well-paying jobs; result in equitable outcomes for historically disadvantaged groups; foster vibrant and livable neighborhoods; use innovative solutions to solve difficult economic issues; and promote carbon neutrality and/or climate resilience.
 - Alignment with DECD best practices and efficient use of taxpayer funds by: including a realistic and comprehensive budget; limiting "soft costs" to a minimal proportion of such budget; including a realistic and comprehensive project plan; demonstrating shovel-readiness; and leveraging non-state funding.
- With respect to Small Business Support programs (defined hereinafter), the Administrator will consider:
 - As required by the Statute, (i) the risk of default on repayment of a proposed loan or financing; (ii) the impact on job creation or retention; (iii) the impact on blighted properties; and (iv) the overall impact on the community.
 - Small business financing best practices, including loan terms which align with DECD's Small Business Express program. These terms include:
 - A maximum 4% origination fee and maximum 1.5% yearly servicing fee, to cover administrative expenses;
 - Maximum loan amounts of \$100,000 for any business which has been in operation for less than one year;
 - Loan proceeds to be used only for a business purpose, such as: start-up costs; working capital; franchise fees; acquisition of equipment, inventory, or services used in production, manufacturing, or delivery of a business's goods or services; construction, renovation, or tenant improvements of a place of business that is not for passive investment purposes;
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- Eligible businesses receiving loans or other financing may NOT include those which are engaged primarily in: activities prohibited by federal, state, or local law; speculative activities that develop profits from fluctuations in price rather than through the normal course of trade; gambling operations; lobbying activities; passive real estate investments; pay-day loan stores; and
- Eligible businesses receiving loans or other financing may not be currently delinquent or have defaulted on loans issued through the Connecticut Small Business Express Program, or be delinquent on any federal, state, or local taxes.

ONLINE WEBINAR INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

Wednesday June 1, 2022 at 1:00 PM– [REGISTER](#)

Wednesday June 8, 2022 at 1:00 PM – [REGISTER](#)

Thursday June 16, 2022 at 1:00 PM - [REGISTER](#)

A recording will be posted to the CIF website. A FAQ Document will be updated and posted on the CIF website.